

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: RSG

Other known title(s): How to make a stun gun!

OFLC ref: 1800622.035

Medium: Text File

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 10 May 2019

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 10 May 2019

Summary of reasons for decision:

'RSG' was submitted for classification on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, under s13(1)(ab) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The unrestricted availability of this publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. The document outlines how to make and use a stun gun that will deliver an electric shock and cause muscle spasms to its victims. It gives a warning to the reader not to test the device on themselves. There is serious risk of injury from following the instructions in this document, in both making the device described and using it on other people. However it is uncertain whether or not the device would work as intended, given the instructions are so basic, brief and amateur. Given that young people are still developing their cognitive abilities, including risk-assessment, it is not unreasonable to consider them as having a higher risk of causing serious harm to themselves or others should these documents be available to them. Adults are more likely to be aware of the inherent dangers of playing with electronics and of the legal consequences of inflicting physical harm on others deliberately. For these reasons, 'RSG' is restricted to those aged 18 and over. This is a limit on the right to freedom of expression but it is reasonable and justified in order to prevent injury to the public good.